

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 EUR-25 IO-12 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 102546

R 040500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6627

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1173

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SEATO, NZ, XB

SUBJECT: SEA TOUR BY NZ MINISTER OF DEFENSE

REF: A. WELLINGTON 902; B. WELLINGTON 939

C. WELLINGTON 960

SUMMARY: MINDEF FAULKNER AFTER REFLECTION ON HIS TOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES IS CONSIDERING POSITION GNZ SHOULD TAKE. CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDE MINISTERIAL ATTENDANCE SEATO COUNCIL; NOT SEEKING ASEAN MEMBERSHIP; OFFERING BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SETTING UP ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN MFA; AND HAVING RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN MANILA. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE MINDEF FAULKNER HAS HAD TIME TO DIGEST AND CONSIDER HIS VISIT TO ASEAN CAPITALS (REF A), I CALLED ON HIM MAY 4.

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2. I WILL LIST FIRST HIS GENERAL IMPRESSIONS, SINCE THEY REFLECT GNZ VIEWS, AND SECOND HIS CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT GNZ SHOULD DO.

3. IMPRESSIONS:

A. HE WAS VERY GRATIFIED BY FRIENDLY RECEPTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED AND FRANKNESS WITH WHICH HIS HOSTS HAD TALKED. HE FELT NZ AS SMALL COUNTRY WHICH OFFERED NO THREAT AND HAD SENSIBLE AND SYMPATHETIC GOVERNMENT WAS WELL REGARDED AND COULD PLAY QUIET, USEFUL ROLE.

B. HE FOUND NO ANTI AMERICANISM AMONG ASEAN GOVT LEADERS HE VISITED.

C. ASEAN LEADERS WISHED TO STRENGTHEN ASEAN AS SMALL POWER GROUP BY REDUCING THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES BEFORE DECIDING TO INVITE NEW MEMBERS. FAULKNER WHO LAST VISITED THESE COUNTRIES TWO YEARS AGO EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY TO ME THE INCREASED WARMTH AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBERS. HE FELT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOI AND GOS STILL PASSED LARGELY THROUGH GOM, BUT THAT THERE WOULD SOON BE MORE FREQUENT DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT MARCOS DID NOT BLAME SABAH ON RAZAK.

D. AS SMALL NATIONS THEY DID NOT WISH TO INVITE JAPAN OR SUPER POWERS TO JOIN. RAZAK, EXPLAINED GOM'S RECOGNITION OF DRV (WHICH RECOGNITION FAULKNER FELT HAS BEEN QUIETLY ENCOURAGED BY GOI). RAZAK AND OTHER ASEAN LEADERS FELT EVENTUALLY, WHEN THINGS CALMER AND CLEARER, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO INVITE VIET NAM OR VIET NAMS TO JOIN. FAULKNER FELT DRV CLOSER TO USSR THAN PRC SINCE CHINA WAS FOR AGES PAST VIETNAMS' S LARGE, AGGRESSIVE NEIGHBOR. THEREFORE IF SOMEDAY NORTH VIETNAM WERE NOT TOO AGGRESSIVE AND BECAME A REASONABLE MEMBER OF ASEAN THIS WOULD REDUCE AREA TENSIONS WITH PRC.

E. RAZAK APPRECIATED USG UNDERSTANDING AND, ACCORDING TO FAULKNER, QUIET SUPPORT OF RAZAK'S ATTITUDE ON
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NEUTRALITY. FAULKNER FELT RAZAK WAS REALISTIC IN REGARDING NEUTRALITY AS A VERY LONG RANGE GOAL.

F. I RAISED PROBLEM FOR ASEAN NATIONS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC WHILE IT SUPPORTS SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS. HE RECOGNIZED THIS. HE FELT GOT AND GOM WERE STILL OVER CONFIDENT THAT

THEY COULD HANDLE THEIR INSURGENCIES AND " TOO LIGHT ON THE GROUND" IN DEALING WITH THEM, BUT GOT WOULD " WIN IN THE END".

G. GOT HAD GIVEN HIM GOOD BRIEFING ON SEATO. HE FELT THEY WERE TAKING LOWER POSTURE AND MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDES WITHIN SEATO.

H. HE FOUND GOT " LESS NERVOUS THAN I HAD EXPECTED" (THIS IS CONTRARY TO ROBERTSON' S IMPRESSION REPORTED EARLIER AND EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD ROBERTSON ' S EARLIER IMPRESSION WAS DUE TO TRANSLATION DIFFICULTIES).

I. FAULKNER PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH HIS RECEPTION IN MANILA, HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN " CLEANING UP" CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

4. CONCLUSIONS FOR GNZ AS CONVEYED BY FAULKNER:

A. GNZ WILL SEND MINISTER TO SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. FAULKNER EXPECTS HE WILL BE CHOSEN.

B. GNZ WILL NOT SEEK ASEAN MEMBERSHIP - " WE CAN' T CHANGE OUR WHITE FACES", BUT BELIEVES IT WILL BE INVITED.

C. GNZ WILL ACCEPT GOI SUGGESTION THAT GOI ACT AS PIPELINE BETWEEN GNZ AND ASEAN COUNTRIES, BUT WILL ALSO DEAL BILATERALLY WITH EACH MEMBER.

D. GNZ SETTING UP INFORMAL SECRETARIAT IN MFA TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ASPECTS GNZ/ ASEAN RELATIONS PARTICULARLY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, DEFENSE AND TRADE.

E. ON DEFENSE MATTERS GNZ PLANS (1) APPOINT DEFENSE CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTACHES, (2) EXCHANGE INTELLIGENCE AND (3) CARRY OUT SMALL JOINT EXERCISES (WHICH WOULD, INCIDENTALLY, HELP ATTRACT MORE RECRUITS BY OFFERING MORE OVERSEAS TRIPS TO GNZ' S CAREER ARMY).

F. FAULKNER WILL PUSH HARD IN CABINET FOR PERMANENT GNZ REPRESENTATION IN MANILA BY SWITCHING AMBASSADOR R B TAYLOR WHO NOW RESIDENT IN HONG KONG TO MANILA WHILE RETAINING HIS ACCREDITATION TO HONG KONG. HE HAD STATED THIS PUBLICLY IN MANILA. (COMMENT: I POINTED OUT TO FAULKNER, AS I HAVE BEEN TO GNZ FOR TWO YEARS, THAT GNZ ALSO LIKELY BENEFIT ECONOMICALLY BY SUCH A MOVE).

G. FINALLY, FAULKNER FELT GNZ AS SMALL COUNTRY
OFFERING LARGELY BILATERAL AID TO ASEAN MEMBERS
COULD QUIETLY, BUT FRANKLY LET ASEAN COUNTRIES KNOW
THAT GNZ " EXPECTED MORE" PROGRESS FROM THEM IN RETURN
FOR GNZ SUPPORT. HE CONCEDED THIS WOULD BE TRICKY.
(COMMENT: GNZ PLANS TRIPLE ITS AID PROGRAM TO
NZ\$75 MILLION BY 1975 OF WHICH ASEAN MIGHT RECEIVE
ABOUT NZ\$30 MILLION).
WOOD

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